

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-3179 Fax: 541-963-9079

MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 2, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Oregon Department of Transportation
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850

1. **Open Meeting** - Judge Terry Tallman, NEACT chair opened the meeting and asked for the roll call
 - o Roll call of voting members taken by Glenis Harrison, NEACT Assistant

Voting Members/Alternates Present

Hal Phillips
Commissioner Terry Tallman
Lisa Mitteldorf
Commissioner Steve McClure
Dan Chevaleer
Gary Bieberdorf
Fred Warner
Mary Jo Carpenter
Nancy Gover
Frank Reading
ODOT Staff
Glenis Harrison
Doug Wright
Joe Gray
Monte Grove
Michelle Wright
Marty Andersen
Jack Evans
Victor Dodeir

Others Present

Jon Croghan
Mayor Phil Houk
Larry Bartee
Andy Perry
Norm Paullus
Jennifer Watkins

Steve Brocato
Frank Thomas
Bret Koprowicz
Craig Thompson
Judy Lauder milk
Richard Comstock
Janet Dodson
Sandi Putman
Dana Taylor
Nola Driskell
Steve Ellis
Jeff Wise
Kathleen Cathey

2. Approve minutes from previous Meeting.
 - Steve McClure moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gary Bieberdorf seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Announcements – No Announcements
4. **Public and/or Stakeholders Comments:**
Public comments may be taken at any time during the ACT meeting - None
5. **Old Business and Reports**
 - o OTC Update, Commissioner Mike Nelson
 - i. Mike was not present; Monte Grove gave the OTC report and the ODOT report.
 - ii. Reminded everyone that the Commission meeting will be in August on the 15th and 16th. There will not be a tour. There will be a workshop the afternoon of the 15th. There will be a dinner that night, invitations went out to NEACT. The formal meeting will be on the 16th.
 - iii. The workshop; the Commission had been scheduled to approve the STIP; they delayed because they are looking at making some program cuts. They had to accommodate moving \$56 million over to the counties. We won't do that until November of next year but need to think about it now. The bigger issue is the federal side; the federal highway truck fund. It is not bringing in enough revenue to support the program we have through 2010-2011. So that is about a \$150 million dollar problem for Oregon. The Commission needs to give direction to staff on how to deal with that. That is the focus

of the workshop. What will come out of that is a reduction in the STIP program. There will be a piece of work for NEACT later. The Mod project will be where their focus will be.

- iv. OTC Agenda includes Bernhard Road Interchange Area Management Plan that the city, county and ODOT have been working on for quite a while. Has been adopted by the locals.
- v. Immediate Opportunity Fund Grant for Noble Panels is on the agenda.
- vi. During the last Legislative Session ODOT received money to replace the Baker Maintenance Section facility. We are starting work on that.
- vii. Bridge: 2 more Bridge bundles to let in Region 5 to have everything done on I84 in the Region. The Lime Region Bridge and the North Powder Bridge.

Question regarding more inspections on bridges since the Minneapolis Bridge Collapse.

Monte: He believes our bridge inspection program is good.

- viii. All but done with the Tollgate Project. Have been working on it for about 3 years. Looks pretty good

Question -Commissioner McClure: Stanfield Bridge that they put a hold on, can you give us an update?

Monte: It's a steel girder, concrete deck, we made some changes in the design of the girders and in doing that it delayed the project. Girders should be here sometime in August and the next month things should start happening. A news release went out a couple of weeks ago. Going to try to button up the project this year.

- o Byways Update – Janet Dodson
 - i. Thanked NEACT for including Byways on the agenda. Ours is the only ACT around the state that has Byways/Tourism on the agenda.
 1. Hard copy of Janet's report attached

6. New Business and Presentations

- o Connect Oregon II Update– Marty Anderson, ODOT Local Government Section
 - i. First projects have been completed
 - ii. Website is being updated
 - iii. Can fill out pre-application form by the end of the month (**Note: This form does not HAVE to be turned in before application**)
 - iv. Administrative rules will be amended.
 - v. Several changes in the bill
 1. 50% of the money will go to the Regions equally
 2. 2% of the total amount of the Connect Oregon dollars plus the match will be paid by the recipient to fund a rail study.
 3. Some work has been done on the criteria to make sure it is fair.
 - vi. Timeline (The following is from the web page, Marty gave out this information)
 1. Rule development – July 2 through Nov. 14, 2007
 2. Intent to Apply submission period – Aug. 1-30, 2007
 3. Oregon Transportation Commission hearing on rule – Nov. 14, 2007
 4. Application submission period – Sept. 3 through Nov. 21, 2007
 5. Regional application question and answer sessions – Sept. 10-21, 2007
 6. Staff and consultant review of applications – Nov. 26, 2007 through Jan. 7, 2008
 7. Modal stakeholder groups review applications – Jan. 17 through Feb. 28, 2008
 8. Regional stakeholder groups review applications – Mar. 7 through April 17, 2008
 9. Final Review Committee recommendations – April 30 – May 2, 2008
 10. OTC public hearing on recommendations – May 14, 2008
 11. OTC selects projects – June 18, 2008
 12. Project agreements executed from June 18, 2008
 13. Implementation ongoing from June 18, 2008
- o Legislative Update – Victor Dodier, ODOT Government Relations
 - i. ODOT tracks bills that might affect transportation or our partners
 - ii. Tracked 700 bills, 250+ bills passed

- iii. HB2272 – Compliance with auto making standards. Levels the playing field with instate dealers and out of state dealers. Has to do with emission standards
 - iv. HB2273 – Billboard Bill – can call local ROW for answers to questions. Standard is being put together now by ODOT.
 - v. HB2275 – Helps deal with safety corridor issues.
 - vi. HB2278 – ConnectOregon II
 - vii. HB2466 – Allows Department to do pilot program on photo radar.
 - viii. HB2283 – Federal compliance issue confined to Federal Energy Policy ACT. Allows trucks to carry additional battery power so they don't have to leave their trucks running and using fuel, but can run them on the battery packs, generators.
 - ix. B??? - Enables Oregon to use electronic toll collection
 - x. Talked about the bill that gave the counties money for Secure Rural Schools.
- o Connect Oregon I Project presentation – Sandi Putman, Management Assistant, Morrow County Public Works
 - i. Lexington Airport, Fueling and Terminal
 - ii. Applied for ConnectOregon I grant in February of 2006
 - iii. Project Description: Secure the AWOS in its own secure room. Tear down the older part of the pilots lounge. Construct an addition to the pilots lounge. Put in a card lock fueling system
 - iv. Received a notice to proceed in November 2006. Advertised bids for a rigid steel building. Requested bids for a small enclosed unit to house the card lock fuel system. Requested bids for construction of an addition to the pilots lounge and construction of the rigid steel building.
 - v. Awarded bids in December, 2007
 - vi. Demolition work began in December, construction started on all projects in January, 2007.
 - vii. Project finished up in May and June of 2007
 - viii. NOTE: Print out of presentation available upon request.
 - o ROW Update – Joe Gray, ODOT R5 ROW Manager
 - i. Let everyone know that ODOT Right of Way staff is here to help the local public agencies
 - ii. Has seen some projects happen that he thought were a little sketchy. It's time that people know they are here for a resource. It doesn't mean that ODOT would do the work, but they are here to help.
 - iii. Let ROW follow process and make sure you don't put yourself at risk to lose federal funding.
 - iv. Have put on one day training on ROW, Utilities and rail in the valley and wants to put one on here. SE Area has committed. One day talking about regulations, how to approach utilities, ROW and railroads.
 - v. Have lots of resources, information, CD's, etc.

COMMENT: Monte: If you are doing applications for ConnectOregon II, stay in contact with Joe and ROW.

- o STIP Update – Frank Reading, NE Area Manager and Marsha Duncan, R5 STIP Coordinator.
 - i. Distributed the best information available considering that the OTC put the 2008-2011 STIP on hold.
 - ii. Should be approved by November.
 - iii. Timeline will be delayed.
 - iv. Will bring list of projects back to NEACT for program cuts. Will want to put together project priorities.
- o Forest Highway Travel Management Rule – Steve Ellis, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa Whitman National Forest.
 - i. Steve McClure introduced Steve Ellis
 - ii. Comment period has been moved to November 16, 2007
 - iii. Decision will be made by Steve Ellis in 2009, implementation in 2010

- iv. Looking for a reasonable plan that allows ATV's.
- v. Find a balance between area roads and trails.
- vi. Map will be published.
- vii. Need ideas for creative ways to keep camp grounds open.

Comments: Monte explained the NEACT a stakeholder group that would look at alternatives and put together a plan.

ACTION: Draft letter to Steve Ellis from NEACT: Steve McClure and Janet Dodson

7. **County Roundtable**, County representatives provide brief descriptions of items of interest/happenings/lessons learned, etc. (As time allows)

8. **Agenda Build**

- o Draft letter
- o STIP Program
- o ConnectOregon II

9. **Set time, date and place for next meeting**

August 2, 2007
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10. **Adjourn meeting**

NOTE: This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The public is invited to attend.